



**United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**



Bakersfield Field Office  
3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, California 93308-6837

Dear Reader:

Attached for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the California Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bakersfield Field Office. The BLM prepared this document in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), implementing regulations, the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1), and other applicable law and policy.

The Planning Area consists of about 17 million acres of land which includes approximately 400,000 acres of surface lands and 1.2 million acres of federal mineral estate managed by the Bakersfield Field Office within Madera, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Kings, Tulare, eastern Fresno, and western Kern counties.

When approved, this RMP will replace the 1997 Caliente RMP, and a portion of the 1984 Hollister RMP, and will guide the management of public lands administered by the Bakersfield Field Office into the future. The Bakersfield RMP and EIS and supporting information are available on the project web site at: [www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield](http://www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield)

The BLM encourages the public to provide information and comments pertaining to the analysis presented in the Draft RMP and Draft EIS. We are particularly interested in feedback concerning the adequacy and accuracy of the proposed alternatives, the analysis of their respective management decisions, and any new information that would help the BLM as it develops the plan.

In developing the Proposed RMP and Final EIS, which is the next phase of the planning process, the decision maker may select various management decisions from each of the alternatives analyzed in the Draft RMP and Draft EIS for the purpose of creating a management strategy that best meets the needs of the resources and values in this area under the BLM multiple use and sustained yield mandate. As a member of the public, your timely comments on the Bakersfield RMP and EIS will help formulate the Proposed RMP and Final EIS.

Comments will be accepted for ninety (90) calendar days following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of its Notice of Availability of the Draft RMP and EIS in the Federal Register. The BLM can best utilize your comments and resource information submissions if received within the review period.

Comments may be submitted electronically at: [cacalrmp@blm.gov](mailto:cacalrmp@blm.gov); or by mail to:

Bakersfield Field Office RMP/EIS  
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To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, we strongly encourage you to submit comments in an electronic format.

Your review and comments on the content of this document are critical to the success of this planning effort. If you wish to submit comments on the Draft RMP and Draft EIS, we request that you make your comments as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies, and reference to a section or page number.

Comments which contain only opinion or preferences will be considered and included as part of the decision making process, although they will not receive a formal response from the BLM.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you are advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Public meetings to provide an overview of the document, respond to questions, and take public comments will be announced by local media, website, and/or public mailings at least 15 days in advance.

Copies of the Draft RMP and Draft EIS have been sent to affected federal, state, and local government agencies [include tribal governments] and to those persons who indicated that they wished to receive a copy. Copies of the Draft RMP and Draft EIS are available for public inspection at the Bakersfield Field Office and the following BLM location:

Bureau of Land Management, California State Office  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Thank you for your continued interest in the Bakersfield RMP and EIS. We appreciate the information and suggestions you contribute to the planning process. For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning process, please contact Sue Porter, RMP Project Manager at (661) 391-6022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Timothy Z. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Timothy" being more prominent and the last name "Smith" following in a similar style.

Timothy Z. Smith  
Field Manager, Bakersfield Field Office